

FRUITS IN *BRUGMANSIA X CANDIDA*

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Brugmansia x candida Pers. is a solanaceous shrub of the Andes grown as an ornamental due its large pendulous flowers (25- 30cm) and fragrance. It is found at higher elevations in the mountains of Sri Lanka. It closely resembles *Brugmansia suaveolens* (Humb. and Bonpl. Ex Willd.) Bercht. and Presl, Rostl) but can be distinguished from the latter by its spatulate calyx slit down one side and inflated corolla tube. *Brugmansia suaveolens* has a five toothed calyx and narrow corolla tube. Although *Brugmansia x candida* flowers profusely, fruits have not so far been recorded in Sri Lanka (Hepper in Dassanayaka and Fosberg, 1987). Herbarium specimens deposited at the National Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, also do not contain any fruits.

The purpose of this note is to report the discovery of fruits of *Brugmansia x candida* in the Nuwara Eliya district of Sri Lanka.

Location:

Nuwara Eliya district on the Kandy- Nuwara Eliya main road, past the 46th culvert, opposite the Municipality Quarters and Hakgala Botanical Gardens.

Date:

11th January 2000

Description:

Fruits are 10- 13cm long and 2.5cm wide at the end of a stalk 7- 9cm long. Green when immature, turning gray to black when mature. The tip is however not acuminate as illustrated in the Flora of Ceylon (Hepper in Dassanayaka and Fosberg, 1987) but blunt (Fig. 1).

Seeds are attached on either side to a central placenta running the entire length of the pod. Irregular in shape with a hard thick testa and the surface is grooved or convoluted. Over 50 seeds per pod.

A specimen is deposited in the National Herbarium, royal Botanic Gardens, Peraeniya.

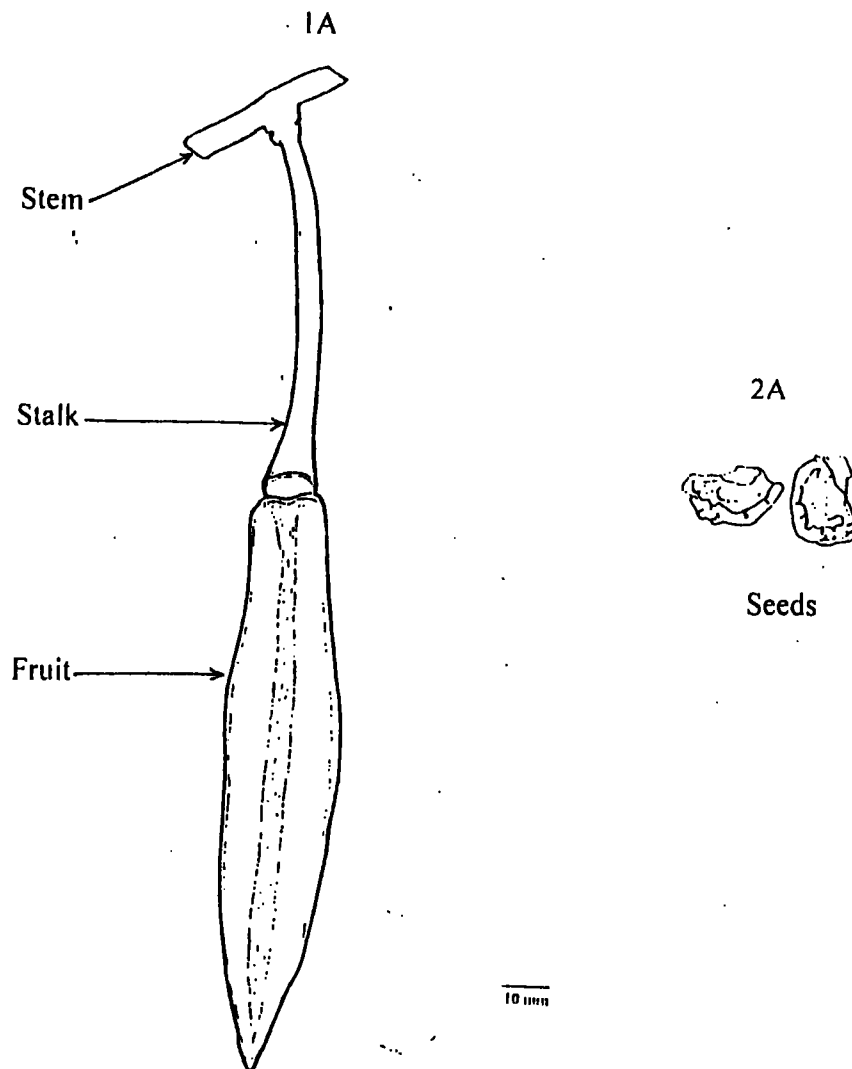


Figure 1. *Brugmansia x candida* Pers. 1A, Fruit. 2A, Seeds

REFERENCE

Hepper, F.N. (1987). Solanaceae. In revised Handbook to the Flora of Ceylon, Vol. VI, ed. M.D. Dassanayaka and F.R. Fosberg (eds). Amerind Publishing Co., New Delhi.